CLAIMS

1.   A method for analyzing a timing report, the method comprising the steps of:

grouping timing paths that share common characteristics;

creating a list file containing the timing paths;

searching a timing report for timing paths that match the timing paths in the list file;

generating a first summary report on the timing paths in the input list, the first summary report listing the status of the timing paths; and

determining whether there are new timing path(s) not found in the input list.

2.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating a second summary report on new timing path(s), if there are new timing paths; and

repeating the steps until all negative timing paths are identified.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of grouping timing paths that share common characteristics further comprises the step of classifying the timing paths as unique timing paths.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein, in the step of grouping timing paths that share common characteristics, wild cards are used to group the timing paths.

5.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating a path table for checking against matching paths in the timing report.

6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the status of the timing paths comprise path numbers and slack.

7.   A computer program product for analyzing a timing report file, the computer program product having a medium with a computer program embodied thereon, the computer program comprising:

        computer program code for reading in a list file containing unique timing paths grouped from a plurality of timing paths;

        computer program code for reading in timing paths stored in the timing report file;

        computer program code for extracting information from the timing paths; and

        computer program code for comparing the information to the timing paths contained in the list file.

8.   The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the information on extracted from each timing path comprises a path number, slack, source, and destination.

9.   The computer program product of Claim 7, further comprising computer program code for generating a path table from the timing paths contained in the list file.

10.   The computer program product of Claim 7, further comprising:

        computer program code for generating a path table from the timing paths contained in the list file; and

        computer program code for updating the path table when a match is found between a timing path in the timing report file and a timing path in the list file.

11.   An apparatus for analyzing a timing report, the apparatus comprising:

        means for grouping timing paths that share common characteristics;

        means for creating a list file containing the timing paths;

        means for searching the timing report for timing paths that match the timing paths in the list file;

means for generating a first summary report on the timing paths in the input list, the first summary report listing the status of the timing paths; and

means for determining whether there are new timing path(s) not found in the input list.

5   12.   The apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising:

means for generating a second summary report on new timing path(s), if there are new timing paths.

13.   The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the means for grouping timing paths that share common characteristics further comprises means for classifying the timing paths as unique timing paths.

14.   The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the means for grouping timing paths that share common characteristics uses wild cards to group the timing paths.

15.   The apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising:

means for generating a path table for checking against matching paths in the timing report.

16.   The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the status of the timing paths comprises path numbers and slack.